

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method of bending a glass sheet which has been heated to have a viscosity of not lower than 10^5 Pa·s and not higher than 10^8 Pa·s, comprising the steps of:

bending the glass sheet by pressing portions of the heated glass sheet having a viscosity of not lower than 10^5 Pa·s and not higher than 10^8 Pa·s against [[the]] a bending surface, wherein the portions of the heated glass sheet having a viscosity of not lower than 10^5 Pa·s and not higher than 10^8 Pa·s are pressed against the bending surface in the bending step; and

controlling a bending temperature T and a bending time period t for the glass sheet so as to satisfy the following formulas 1 and 2:

$$0.05 < \phi < 2.00 \quad \text{Formula 1}$$

$$\phi = \int_0^t \frac{P(\tau)}{\eta(T)} d\tau \quad \text{Formula 2}$$

where $P(\tau)$ is a surface pressure difference (unit: Pa) between a pressure applied on a primary surface of the glass sheet and a pressure applied on a rear surface of the glass sheet at a time τ , t is a bending time period (unit: s), $\eta(T)$ is the viscosity (unit: Pa·s) of the glass sheet at a temperature T, and T is a bending temperature (unit: °C) at the time τ .

Claim 2. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the bent glass sheet includes a portion having a radius of curvature of not larger than 100 mm.

Claim 3. (Original) The method according to Claim 2, wherein the bent glass sheet includes a corner where three surfaces connect together, and each of the surfaces is a flat surface or a curved surface having a radius of curvature of not smaller than 500 mm.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising sandwiching a peripheral portion of the glass sheet between [[the]] a mold and a ring substantially conforming to a peripheral edge of the glass sheet, the bending surface of the mold being formed in a concave shape; and

sucking air between the glass sheet and the bending surface during bending the glass sheet.

Claim 5. (Original) The method according to Claim 4, further comprising trimming a portion of the glass sheet sandwiched between the ring and the mold after bending the glass sheet.

Claim 6. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising putting the glass sheet on a ring, and pressing the glass sheet against the mold to press the glass sheet during bending the glass sheet, the mold being provided above the glass sheet.

Claim 7. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the glass sheet is bent primarily only by gravity.

Claim 8. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising applying a mold-releasing agent to the mold before bending the glass sheet.

Claim 9. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising preparing the glass sheet by a float method.

Claim 10. (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, further comprising blowing air to swell the glass sheet in a first direction, followed by sucking air to bend the glass sheet in a second direction.

Claims 12-13. (Cancelled).

Claim 14. (New) A method of bending a glass sheet, the entirety of which has been heated to have a viscosity of not lower than 10^5 Pa·s and not higher than 10^8 Pa·s, comprising the steps of:

bending the glass sheet by pressing the heated glass sheet having a viscosity of not lower than 10^5 Pa·s and not higher than 10^8 Pa·s against the bending surface; and
controlling a bending temperature T and a bending time period t for the glass sheet so as to satisfy the following formulas 1 and 2:

$$0.05 < \phi < 2.00 \quad \text{Formula 1}$$

$$\phi = \int_0^t \frac{P(\tau)}{\eta(T)} d\tau \quad \text{Formula 2}$$

where $P(\tau)$ is a surface pressure difference (unit: Pa) between a pressure applied on a primary surface of the glass sheet and a pressure applied on a rear surface of the glass sheet at a time τ , t is a bending time period (unit: s), $\eta(T)$ is the viscosity (unit: Pa·s) of the glass sheet at a temperature T, and T is a bending temperature (unit: °C) at the time τ .

Claim 15. (New) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said bending step comprises bringing the glass sheet into contact with the entirety of the surface of a mold.